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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

CROSS-REFERENCE SLIP

Special Branch Registry....OFFICE

FILE NO. D. 7358.

SUBJECT:

Movements of E. C. J. Poll alias Dr. Poll.

German.

PARTICULARS	OFFICE	FILE NO.
CONFIDENTIAL DRAWER		
INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER		

FM. 2
G. 45M-1-36

ZOZ-C

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 2, Special Branch Shdgh,

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
File No. D. 7 3 5 8
Date 9-1-36

Date September 8, 1936.

Subject Movements of E. C. J. Poll.

Made by D.S. Jones Forwarded by T. Boyce D S I

With reference to the expected arrival of Ernst Christian Johannes Poll, information has been received from the Boarding House Section that this individual arrived in Shanghai on board the s.s. Empress of Canada on April 5, 1936.

This information was verified at the Chinese Passport Examination Bureau in Avenue Edward VII.

According to the Alien Passport Examination Form filled in by Poll, he travelled here from Canton via Hongkong on Passport I/R/22/33 issued at Berlin on May 23, 1933 and visaed on February 8th at Singapore. He indicated that the object of his trip here was one of business, and gave 4 to 6 weeks as the probable length of his sojourn in this city.

Since April 5, 1936, the date of his arrival, Poll has been staying at the Cathay Hotel, except during the period July 21st to September 2nd, when he settled his bill and left for a holiday in Tsingtao.

Poll represents himself to be an agent for the Austrian firm of car manufacturers known as "STEYR." He receives letters from this company addressed to the hotel. So far as is known he has no business office in town.

Copy to 'B'
9/9

file
T/B

D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

FORM NO. 3
G. 10M-11-35

zoz-b

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. MUNICIPAL POLICE S.B. REGISTRY 7358

Section 2, Special Branch.

REPORT

Date April 16, 1936.

Subject (in full) E. C. J. Poll - inquiry from H.B.M. Consulate General.

Made by D. S. Jones Forwarded by D. S. Jones

The attached copy of a supplement to the Straits Settlement Police Journal concerning a German named Ernst Christian Johannes Poll no longer being required by H.B.M. Consulate-General, I attach it to this report for purpose of record.

S.B. copy filed

Following receipt of information that Poll had left Hongkong for Shanghai on April 7th, enquiries were made at all shipping companies operating vessels which had sailed from Hongkong on or about that date, in order to ascertain whether or not Poll had booked a passage to Shanghai. Poll's name, however, did not figure on the different passenger lists examined. It was learned later that Poll had not left Hongkong on the date indicated, and that so far as is known, he is there yet.

Particulars of this man have been noted and should it later be discovered that he has either arrived in Shanghai or passed through, a further report, giving whatever additional details regarding him are obtainable, will be submitted.

File

DSR. 16/4/36.

S.2.

Copy to B.

DSR 16/4/36

D. S. Jones

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Copy sent. 17/4

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
P.O. BOX 260 SHANGHAI.

B. 7355

30. 3. 36.

My dear Robertson,

I enclose, herewith, copy of a supplement to the Straits Settlements Police Journal giving information concerning a certain German named Poll. I have received a warning that this man is contemplating visits to Hongkong and Shanghai so you may like to take a copy of this document for reference in case he arrives here.

Please return the enclosure to me when you have finished with it.

Yours Sincerely,

T. Robertson Esq.,
Special Branch,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

S2
Please record & return for appendix to Mr. B. HR

3/4/36

Returned. 16/4

EXTRACT FROM THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL - SUPPLEMENT NO. 2 of 1936.

CONFIDENTIAL

Ernst Christian Johannes POLL

Born at Hanover, Germany on June 11, 1895.

Director of Economics and Doctor of Science (Self styled).

States that during the War he was a Captain in the Uhlans and also that he was in the German Air Force (Richthofen Squadron).

He is said to have been employed at one time in the German Secret Service.

In 1915 his name was added to the list of persons refused entry into the United Kingdom.

In 1925 he entered India on a forged Dutch passport and is believed to have travelled in Afghanistan on a Swedish passport prior to that. POLL later stated in Singapore in 1928 that he had entered India on a Dutch passport because he had certain business deals to carry through in that country and he could not enter as a German. He was appointed sales manager of the "Indo-German Trading Agency," Calcutta, which was managed by Arabindo Bose, an ex detenu. POLL's connection with this man together with his previous record and the fact that he was known to be in touch with Chattopadhyaya, a well-known communist, led to the question of his deportation from India being taken up. POLL falsely stated that, although his mother was German and he had been brought up in Germany, his father was a Dutchman and he himself had been born at The Hague. However, this statement was disproved by an application of his wife, Frau Alexandra Pauline POLL, for permission to enter India, which stated that her husband was by nationality a German, and was German born. His passport No. 7004 also subsequently showed that he was born in Germany.

He first came to notice in Singapore on June 26, 1926, where he was permitted to land in transit for the Netherland Indies.

In August, 1926, A Mr. Demuth arrived in Bombay to take over the business POLL had been managing. A thorough examination of the books was made and Demuth came to the conclusion that it was a questionable concern and refused to be associated with it. He discovered that POLL had misappropriated considerable amounts of money belonging to the business, including the whole of the heavy monthly payments intended for advertisements.

He appeared again in Singapore on September 28,1926, by the s.s. "Viminale." He had intended to land in Colombo and to take ship to Gao but was refused admission by the Colombo Police. So he came on to Singapore and returned to Europe by the s.s. "Munsterland," on October 1,1926.

He next arrived in Singapore by the s.s. "Saarbrucken" from Belawan on January,8,1928. He was then travelling on passport No. 7004, issued in Hamburg on March 14,1923. On that occasion he stated that he represented Krupp's Steel Works in Malaya, the Netherlands Indies and Saigon, and produced a business card which showed him to be Krupp's representative.

In Singapore he approached Namazie and Co., to do business. That company referred to the German Consul-General and was informed by the latter that POLL was not a representative of Krupp. The real representative of Krupp, who had come to hear of the matter, also repudiated him. POLL, in fact, came to Malaya as representative of a firm of brokers called Glaser and Pflaum, Berlin, which deals, among other things, in machinery.

He visited Siam in March 1929, and stated on his return that he had supplied railway materials to the Siamese Government.

His business methods left much to be desired and many firms refused to have any dealings with him.

On March 15,1932 POLL landed in Calcutta, having been issued a visa for India in error at Penang, where he had applied for the same, knowing that he would be more likely to obtain one there than in Singapore where he was known.

He was then travellingon passport No. 10/28, issued by the German Consul-General, Singapore, on June 20, 1928.

On March 24, 1933, POLL arrived at Southampton by the s.s. "Aquitania." He was refused permission to land. Two days later, he arrived at Croydon by aeroplane and was again refused entry. At Croydon it was discovered that the renewal stamps from an Egyptian visa on his passport had been removed and stuck down again so as to cover the Southampton refusal stamp: the revenue stamps had been obliterated so as to continue on the page of the passport itself and the date January 13, 1933, and some pseudo-Arabic hieroglyphics with initials added.

POLL procures orders for machinery in Malaya, Netherlands Indies and Saigon for several firms in Germany. He is known to have represented,besides Messrs. F. C. Glaser and R. Pflaum of Berlin, the following firms:-

Messrs. Demag, Deusberg - (Said to have lost agency in 1934)
Messrs. Stahlwerke Roochling-Buderus, A.G. of Wetzlar.
Messrs. Aleverzee Handgeschellschaft,M.B.H., Dusseldorf, Uhlandstrasse, 58.

He is also interested in exporting pineapples.

On July 25, 1935, POLL attempted to cheat one Kok Hung, the Chinese manager of Sungei Besi Mine, over a deal in excavators. After this affair, POLL is reported to have ingratiated himself with the German Consul-General, who has since described POLL as "a bluffer,"but has not committed himself further. On July 31, 1935, G. Seefeld, 117-B, Meyer Flats, 37, Philip Street, Singapore, repudiated POLL's claim to the agency for the "German Tube Syndicate."

POLL returned to Singapore by the s.s. "Gneisenau" on January 31, 1936, and was refused readmission to Malaya. He was, however, allowed to land for fourteen days, as an "alien in transit" in order to wind up his affairs.

POLL is at present travelling on passport No. S.R. 72/33 issued at Berlin on May 25, 1933. He left for Bangkok by train on February 14, 1936.

CONFIDE

"Very plausible type of person - Spy? - Lots of funds - Always about with women - Claims to be Krupps' Representative (bluff) - No criminal record - 1 to 1½ years since he was in Singapore - Invariably tries to get friendly with Army Officers and their wives."

Further information may be obtained by writing confidentially direct to the Criminal Investigation Department, Secret Service Branch in Singapore.

FILE

SPECIAL BRANCH
11 JUNE 1937
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

10 JUNE 1937

Date NTIAL 1937

(Special Branch) Office Notes

EARLY

P. A.

Any information on file re me

Dr Poll late of Singapore

Note Now resident Carlton Hotel. Had £3000 transferred to local account from Hamburg via Midland Bank London

Be very wary about enquiries as already complaints re alleged Police interference at the Bank, to CP.

JAN

10 JUNE 1937

J.Q. no record ask Mr Stapleton

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (SPECIAL BRANCH)